



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 1712-0001

Application of: **Jennings**

Group Art Unit: **3611**

Serial No. **09/696,458**

Examiner: **L. Lum**

Filed: **October 25, 2000**

For: **After-Market Dashboard Bezel for an Automobile having a Number of Instrument Holders and Associated Method**

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.131

Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D. C. 20231

Douglas M. Jennings, the Applicant in the above-identified patent application, declares:

1. I am the sole inventor of subject matter described in the above-identified utility patent application, and claimed in all of the currently pending claims 26-44 and 52-61 thereof.

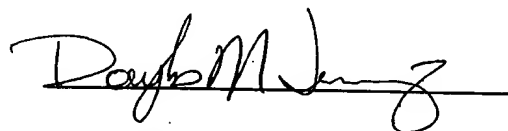
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

2. At least as early as May 26, 2000, I had completed by conceiving and reducing to practice my invention as described and currently claimed in the above-identified utility patent application. In support of this declaration, I am including herewith (i) a copy of a provisional patent application that I filed, through my patent attorney Paul J. Maginot on May 26, 2000 that is entitled "Instrument Bezel for an Automobile" (see Exhibit I), (ii) a copy of a Filing Receipt issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this provisional patent application (see Exhibit II), (iii) a copy of a document showing an internet posting dated March 10, 2000 that I made which advertises my after-market dashboard bezel (see Exhibit III), and (iv) a copy of a document showing an internet posting dated December 6, 1999 that I made which advertises my after-market dashboard bezel (see Exhibit IV).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under §1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: _____

4/15/03



Douglas M. Jennings

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION



Applicant: Douglas M. Jennings

INSTRUMENT BEZEL FOR AN AUTOMOBILE

Paul J. Maginot
Registration No. 34,984
Attorney Docket No. 1712-0001

Correspondence Address:
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111 Monument Circle, Suite 3000
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5130
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Date of Deposit 26 May 2000

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Paul J. Maginot
(Typed or printed name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee)

Paul J. Maginot
(Signature of Person Mailing Paper or Fee)

Invention Disclosure

Inventor:

Douglas M. Jennings



Title of Invention:

Instrument Bezel for an Automobile

Docket Number:

1712-0001

Description of Problem:

Many automobile drivers either choose or require more information about the status of their vehicle's engine than is made available by the manufacturer. Often, it is very important for a driver to monitor an engine's revolutions per minute, the voltage levels produced by the engine, the amount of oil in an engine, the air and fuel mix ratio in the engine as well as the water temperature. However, most car manufacturers do not choose to make the instruments necessary for such measurements available from the factory. Owners are forced to add the instruments to their vehicles on their own. The result can not only be unsightly, but can also pose a significant safety risk. Some instrument clusters designed for additional instruments, such as A-Pillar instrument pods, can obstruct the driver's view of the road, while others are positioned such that constant monitoring of these instruments can significantly distract the driver from the road.

Description of Invention:

The present invention facilitates the addition of supplemental instruments to a vehicle while maintaining a clear and unobstructed view of the road for the driver without placing the instruments in a location which would make reading these instruments

awkward and unsafe. The present invention provides a safe and convenient new apparatus and method for facilitating instrument mounting within a vehicle such as an automobile.

The invention relates to a bezel 1 which surrounds the traditional instrument panel located behind the steering wheel in the dashboard of a car, directly in front of the driver. The bezel 1 includes a piece of material which serves to replace the factory produced instrument panel bezel, but also contains openings which allow for additional instruments and gauges. The bezel 1 possesses a right opening 2 and a left opening 4, as shown in Fig. 1, that are prepared to accept instruments of various sizes, depending upon the application. The bezel 1 would also have a lower instrument housing portion 6 as well as an upper instrument housing portion 8 that would be connected by a right housing portion 10 and a left housing portion 12. These housing portions would create a center opening 14 and surround the stock instrument panel when installed in a vehicle.

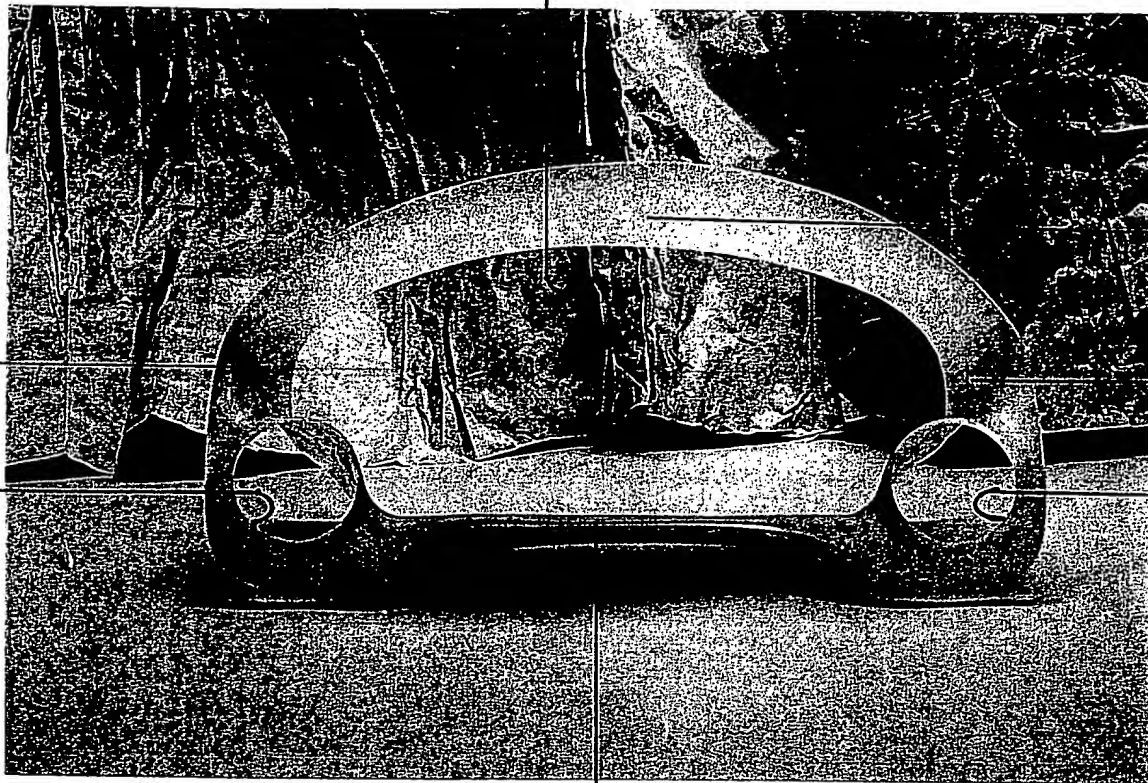
Fig. 1 shows a front view of an uninstalled and unpainted bezel 1 configured to accept additional instruments in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Fig. 2 shows a rear view of the uninstalled and unpainted bezel 1 without any additional instruments in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Figs. 3-7 show more views from different perspectives of the uninstalled and unpainted bezel 1 without any additional instruments in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Figs. 8-11 show the dashboard of a vehicle with the manufacturer's instrument panel bezel removed to define a mounting space 18. Mounting space 18 will accommodate the installation of bezel 1. Figs. 12-14 show different perspectives of the same dashboard from Figs. 8-11 with the unpainted bezel 1 partially installed in mounting space 18. Figs. 15-18 show the same dashboard from Figs. 8-11 with the unpainted bezel 1 installed into the proper location in mounting space 18. There are no instruments located in the right instrument opening 2 and the left opening 4 in Figs. 15-18. Fig. 19 shows an installed and painted bezel 1 with additional instruments 20 in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Note that in Fig. 19, the view of the manufacturer installed instruments 16 located within center opening 14 is not obstructed, yet the additional instruments are located directly in front of the driver. The bezel 1 is made of fiberglass, but can be constructed from a variety of materials, including but not limited to plastic, carbon fiber and metal. The bezel 1 can also be painted to match the

interior color of the vehicle, such as shown in Fig. 19. As shown in Fig. 19, the bezel 1 would locate the instruments 20 in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4, locating the instruments 20 next to the factory installed instruments 16 and in a natural and unobstructed location for viewing. The right opening 2 and the left opening 4 could be formed to be one of a plurality of sizes (e.g. internal diameters) to accommodate a variety of instruments of different sizes, including but not limited to instruments for monitoring oil levels, voltage levels, air and fuel mix ratios, engine revolution speed, oil pressure, water temperature, and fuel levels.

Fig 1

12

4



8

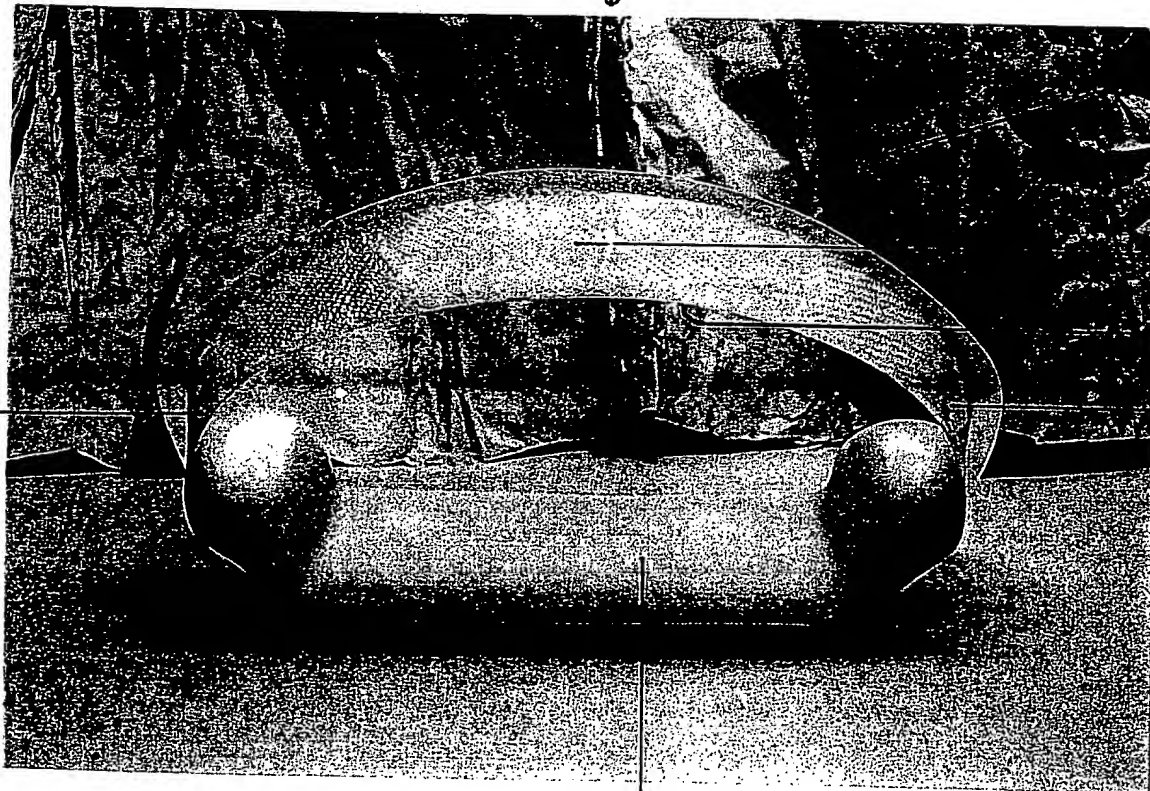
10

2

6

Fig 2

10



8

14

12

6



Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5

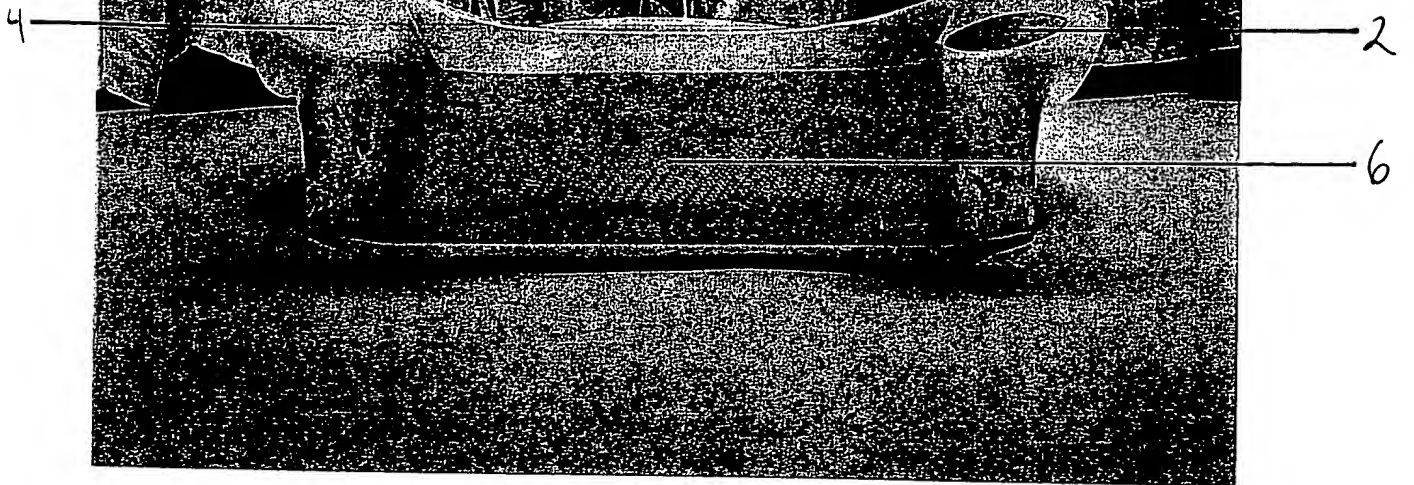


Fig 6

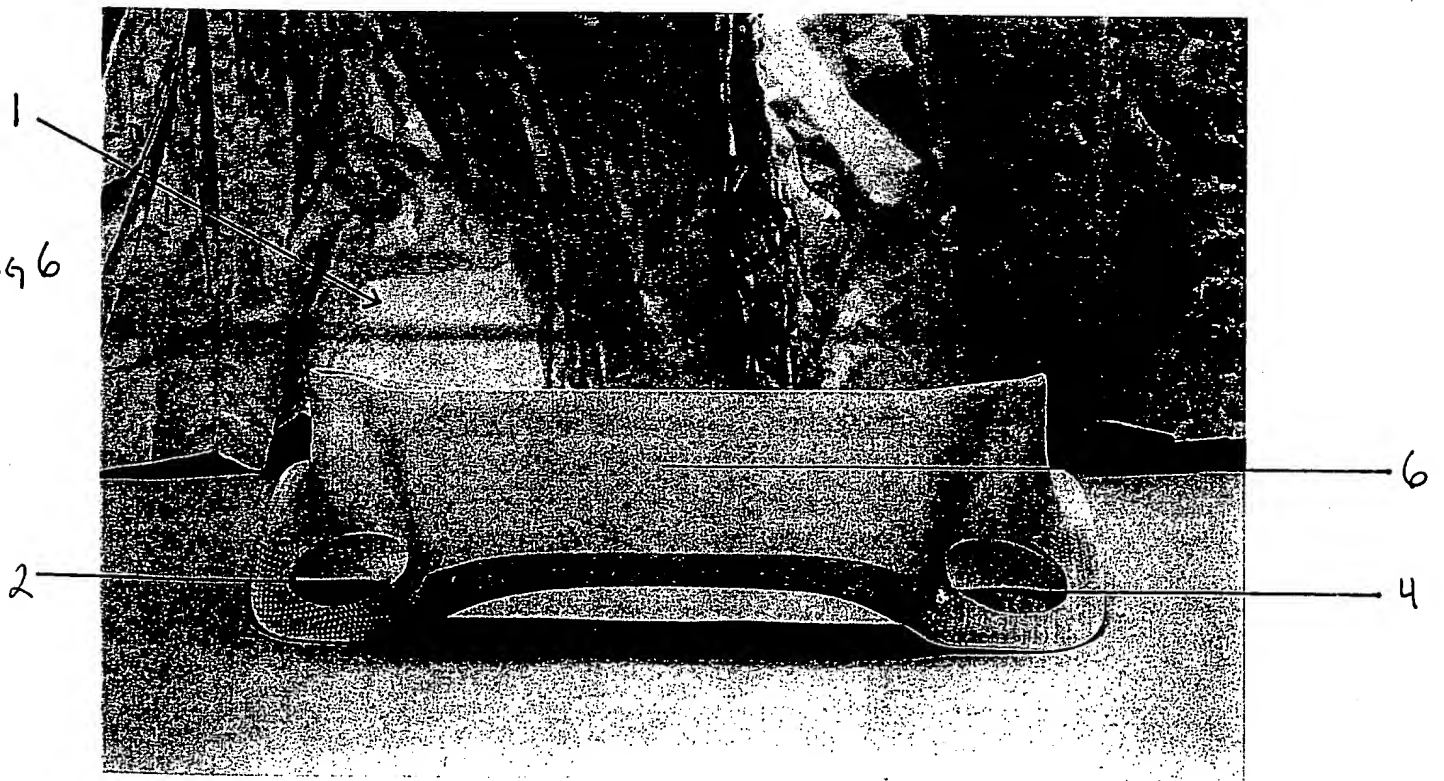


FIG 7

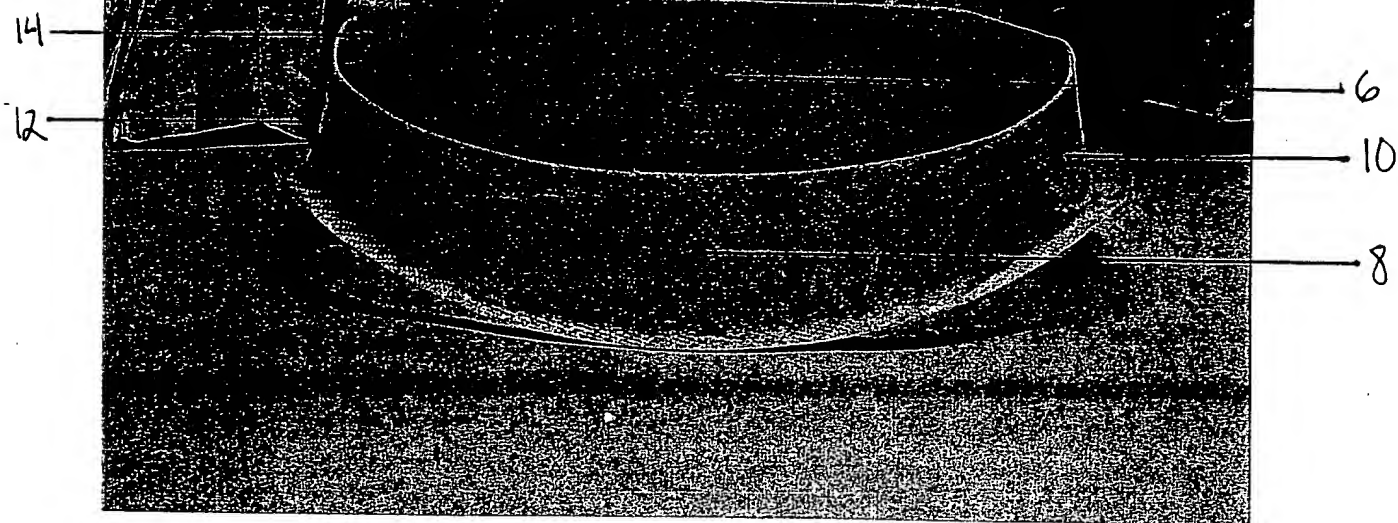


FIG 8

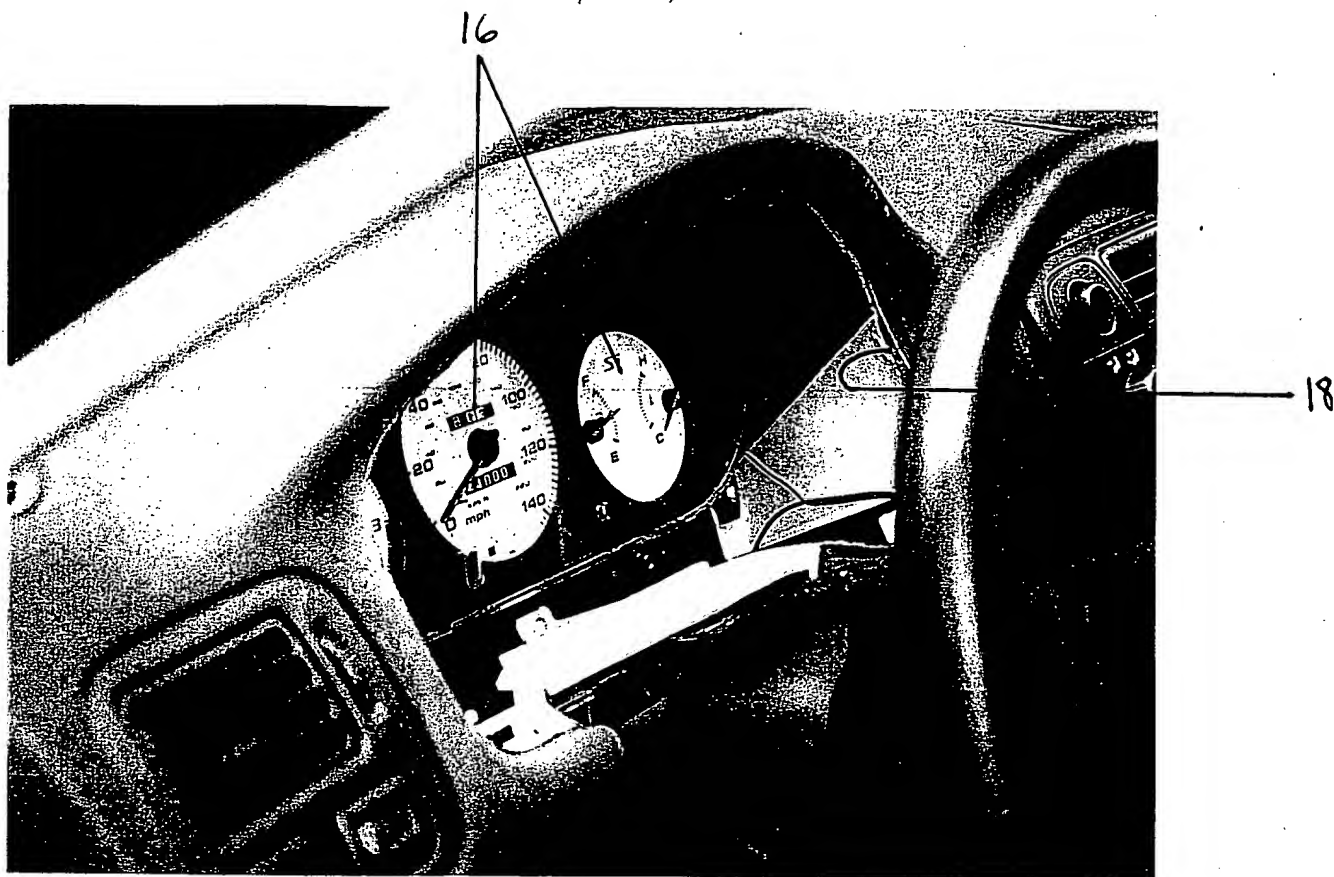


FIG 9

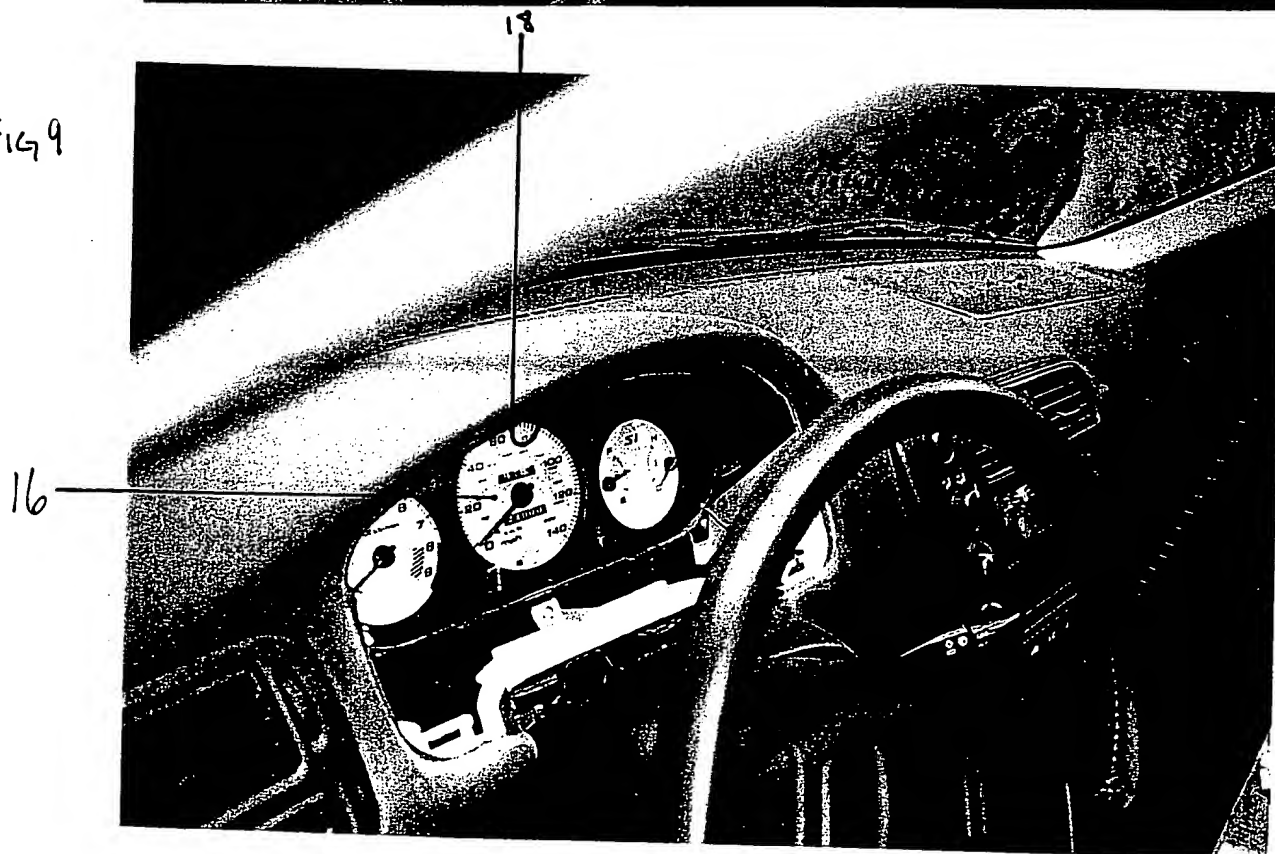


Fig 10

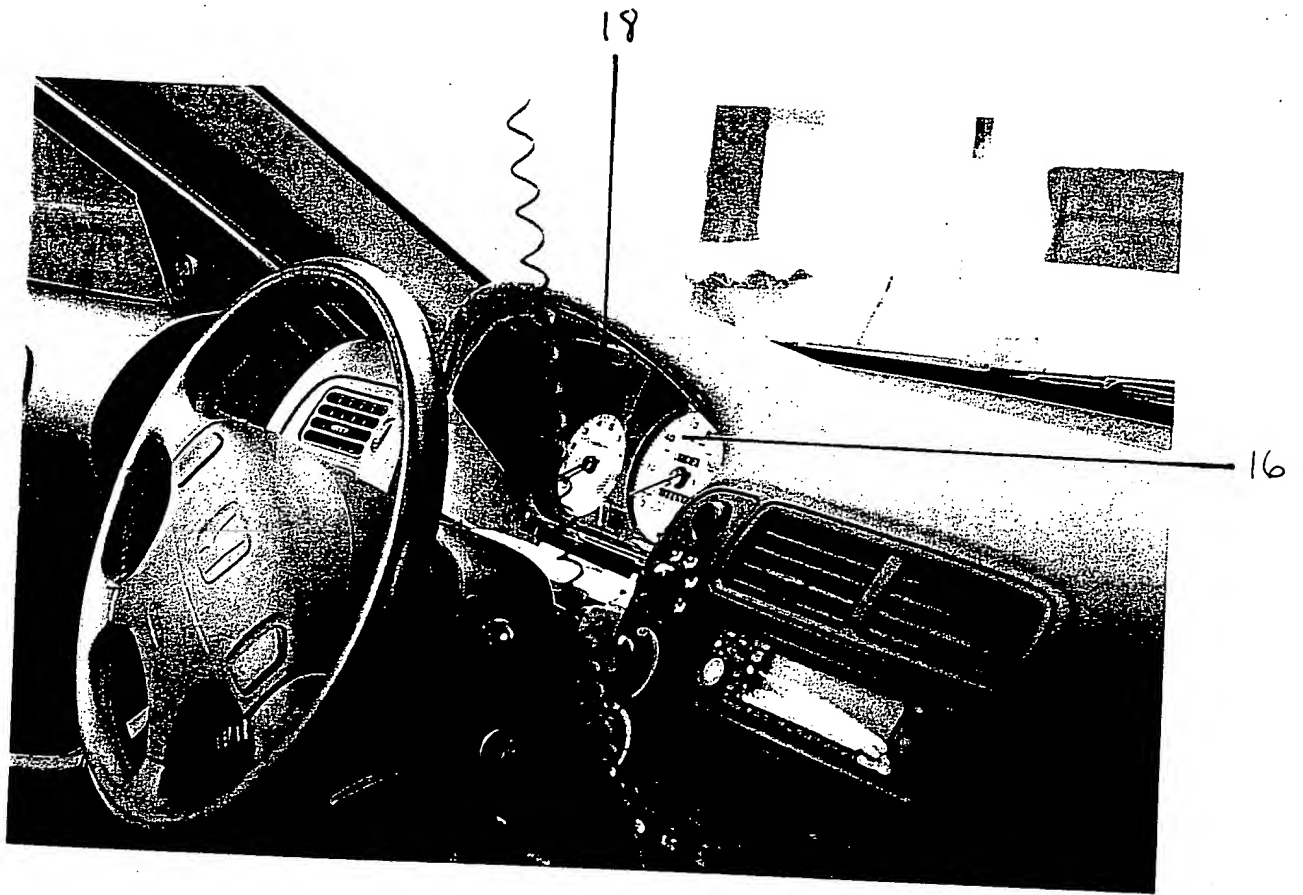


Fig 11

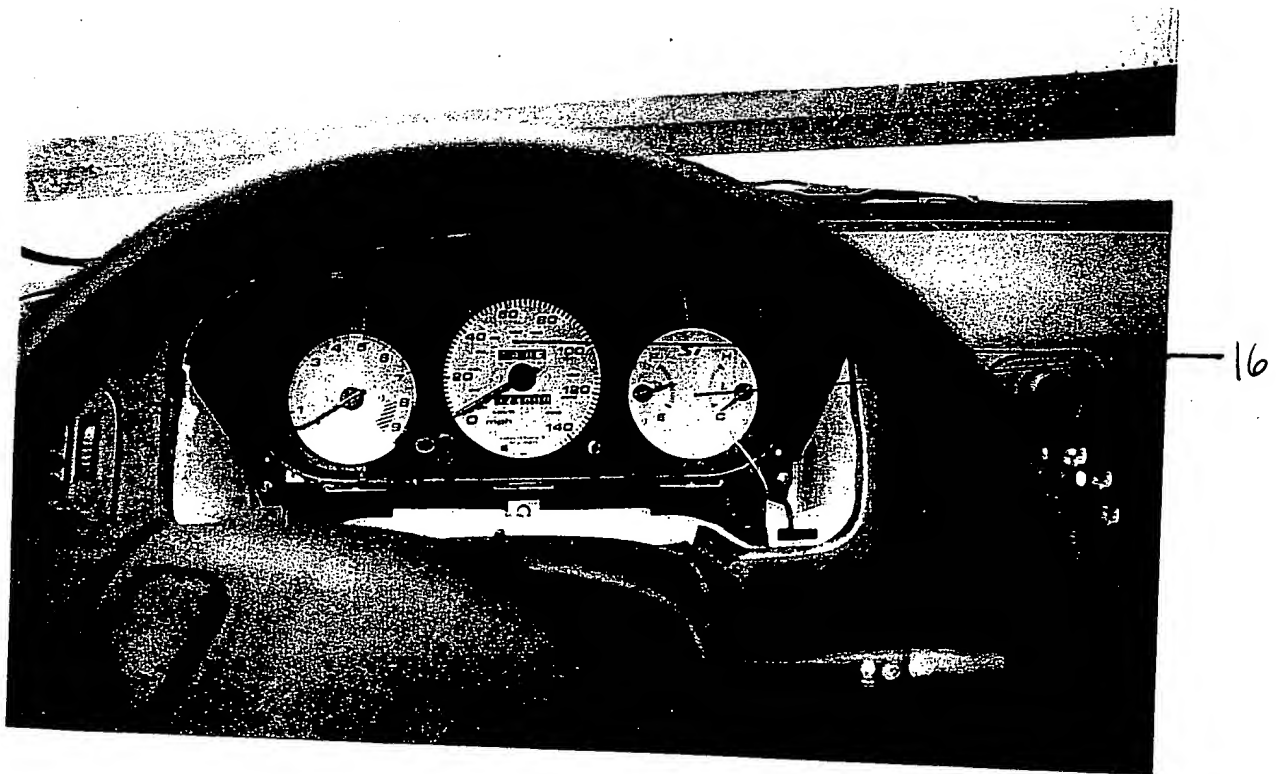


FIG 12

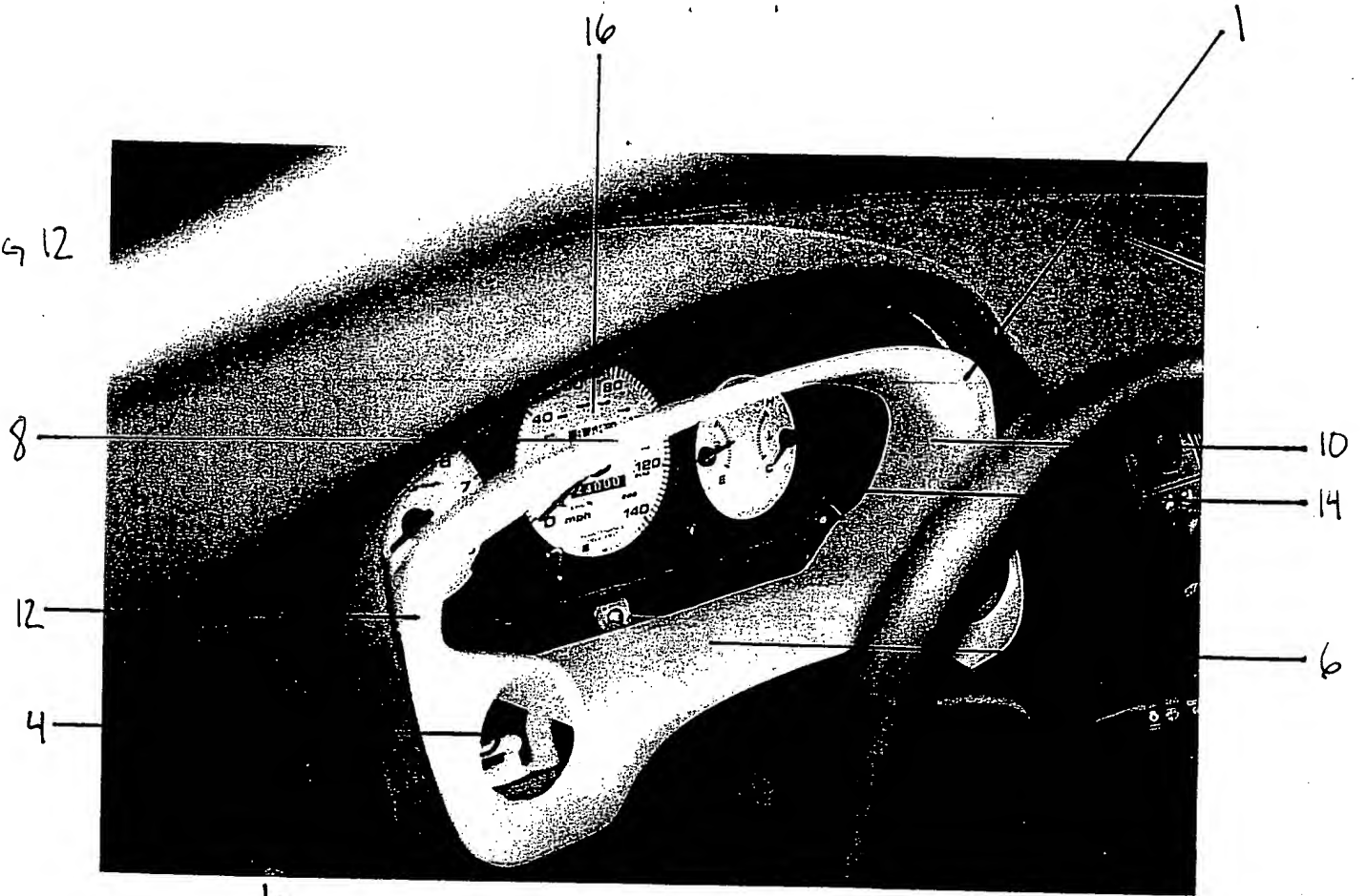


FIG 13



FIG 14

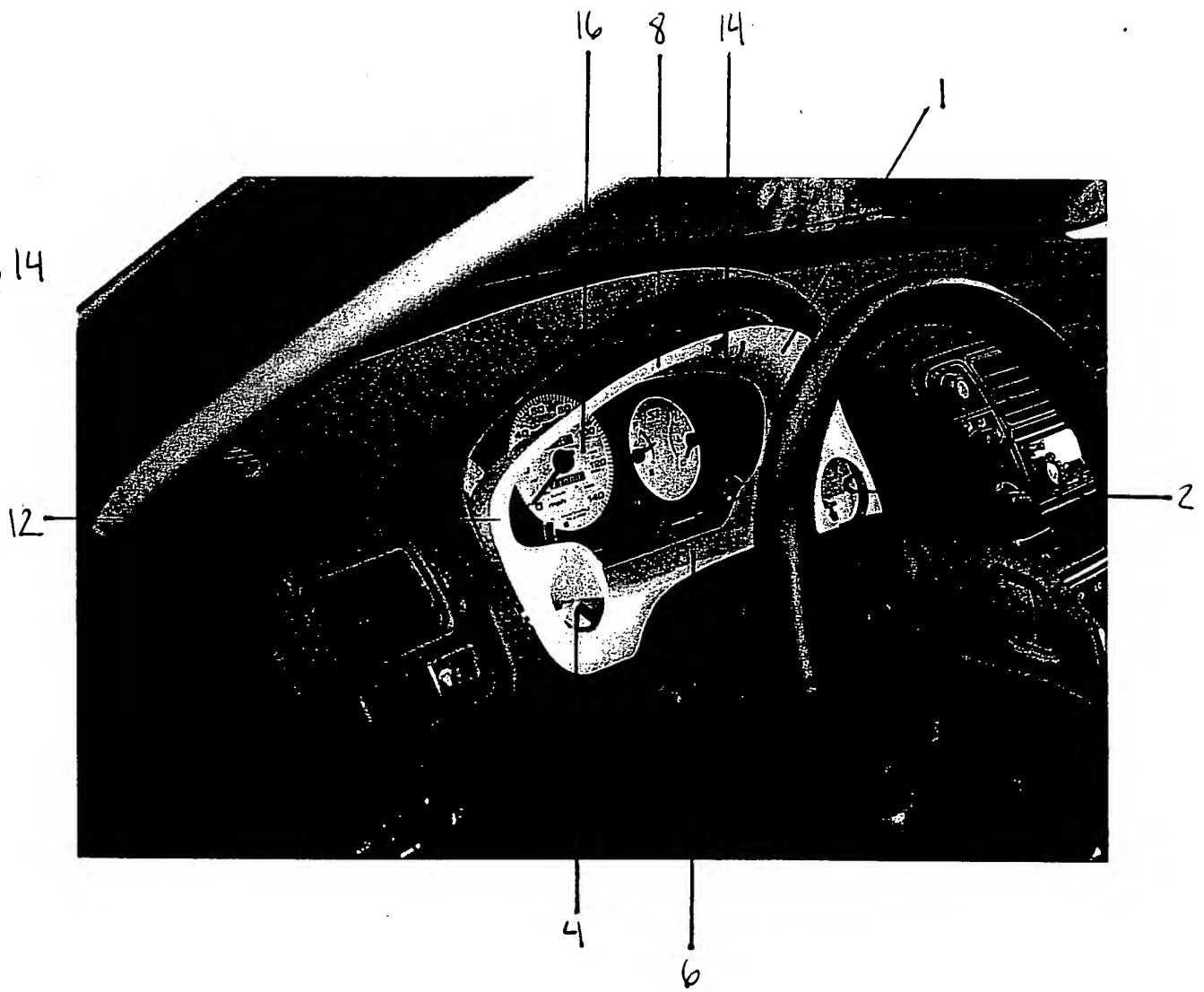


Fig 15

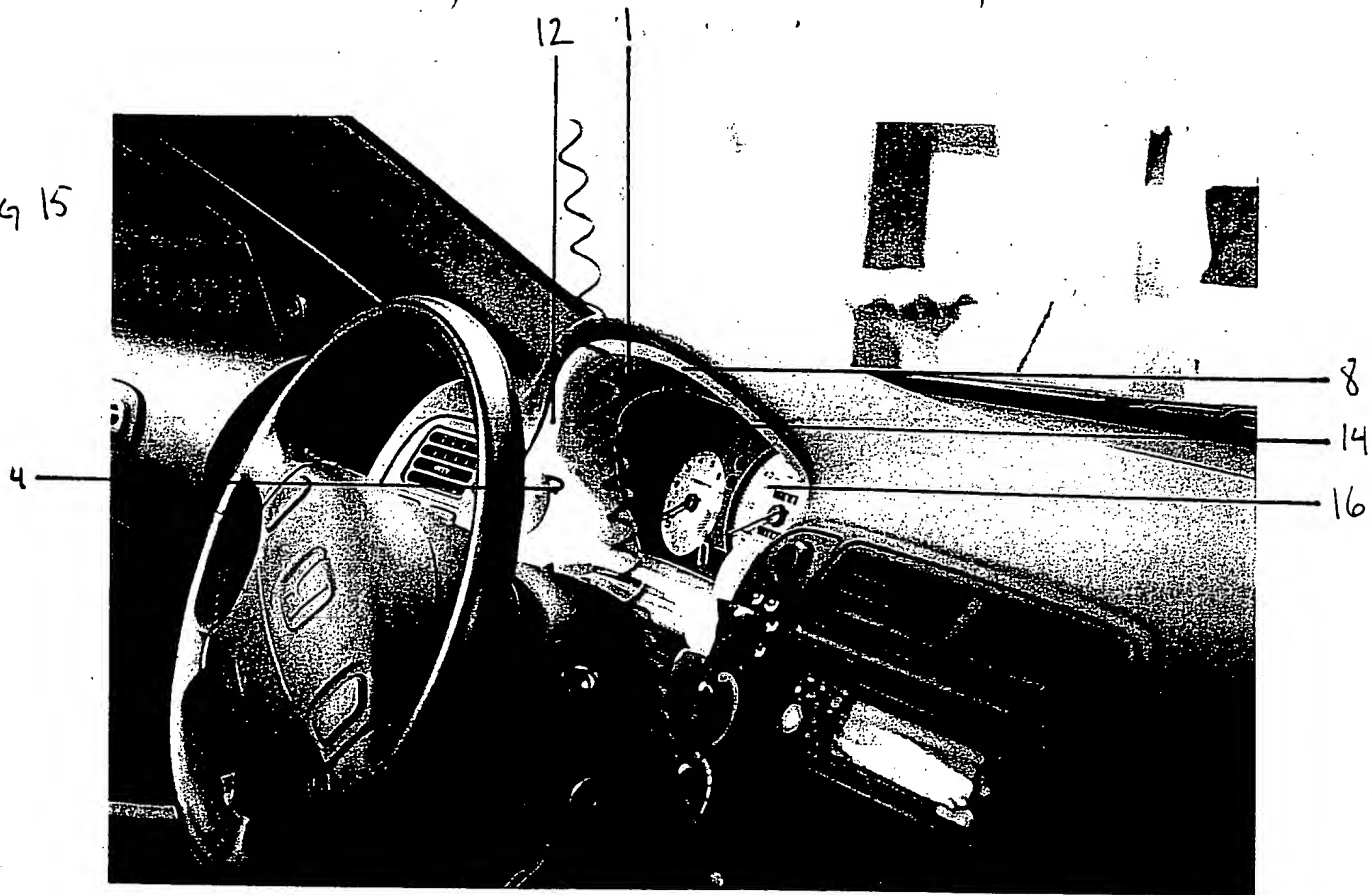


Fig 16

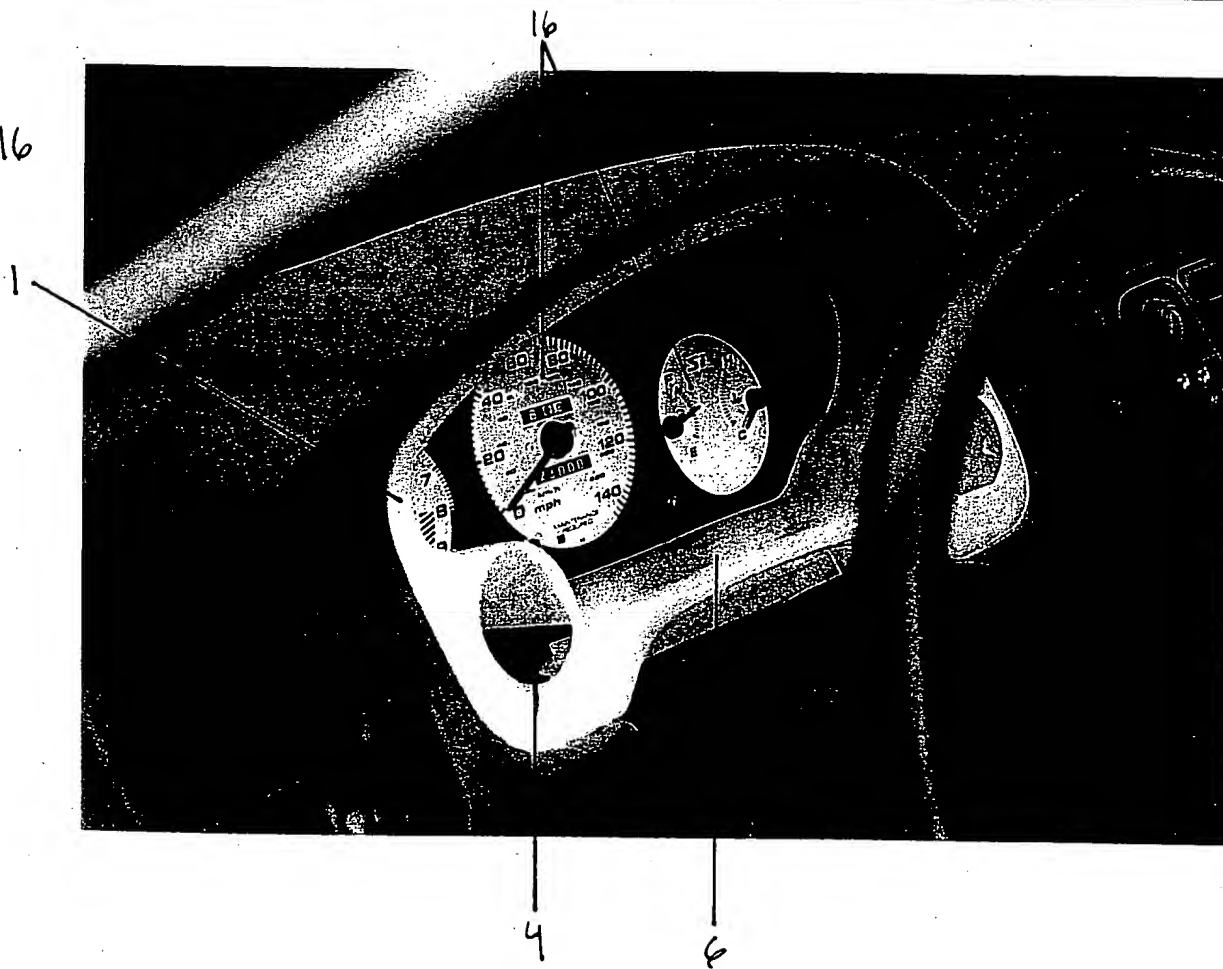


FIG 17



FIG 18

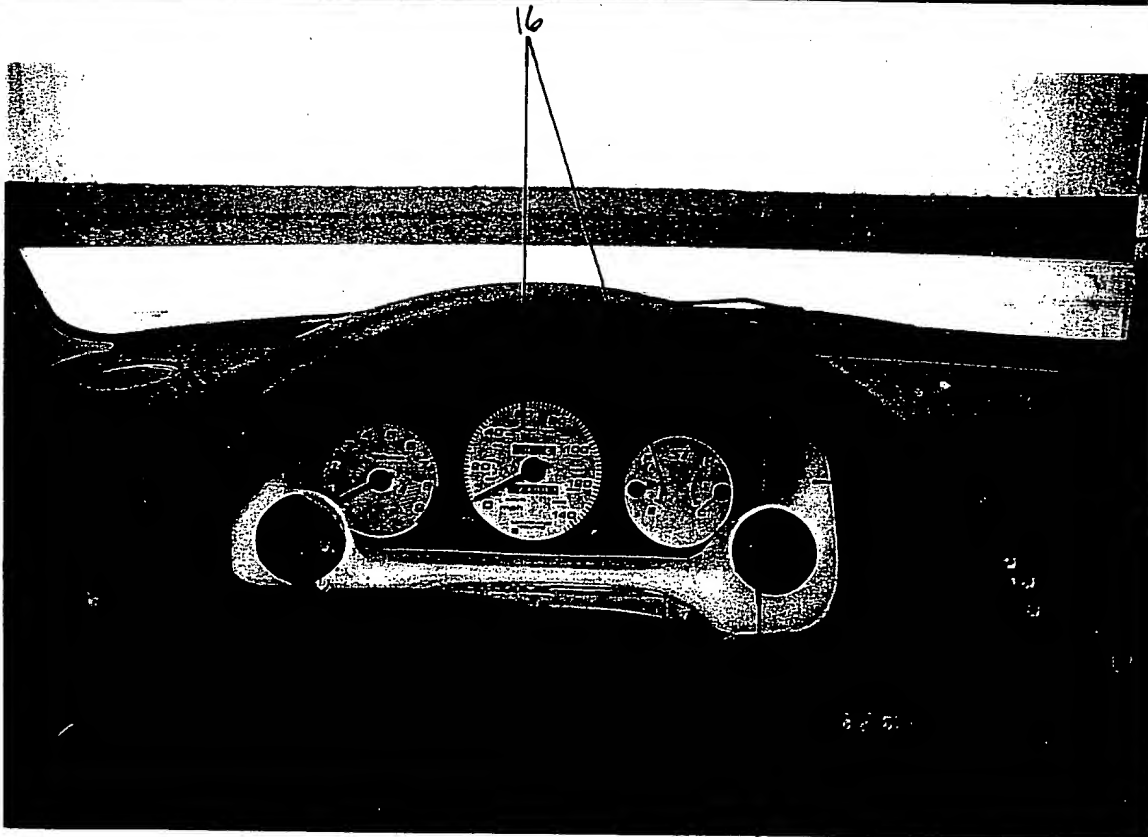
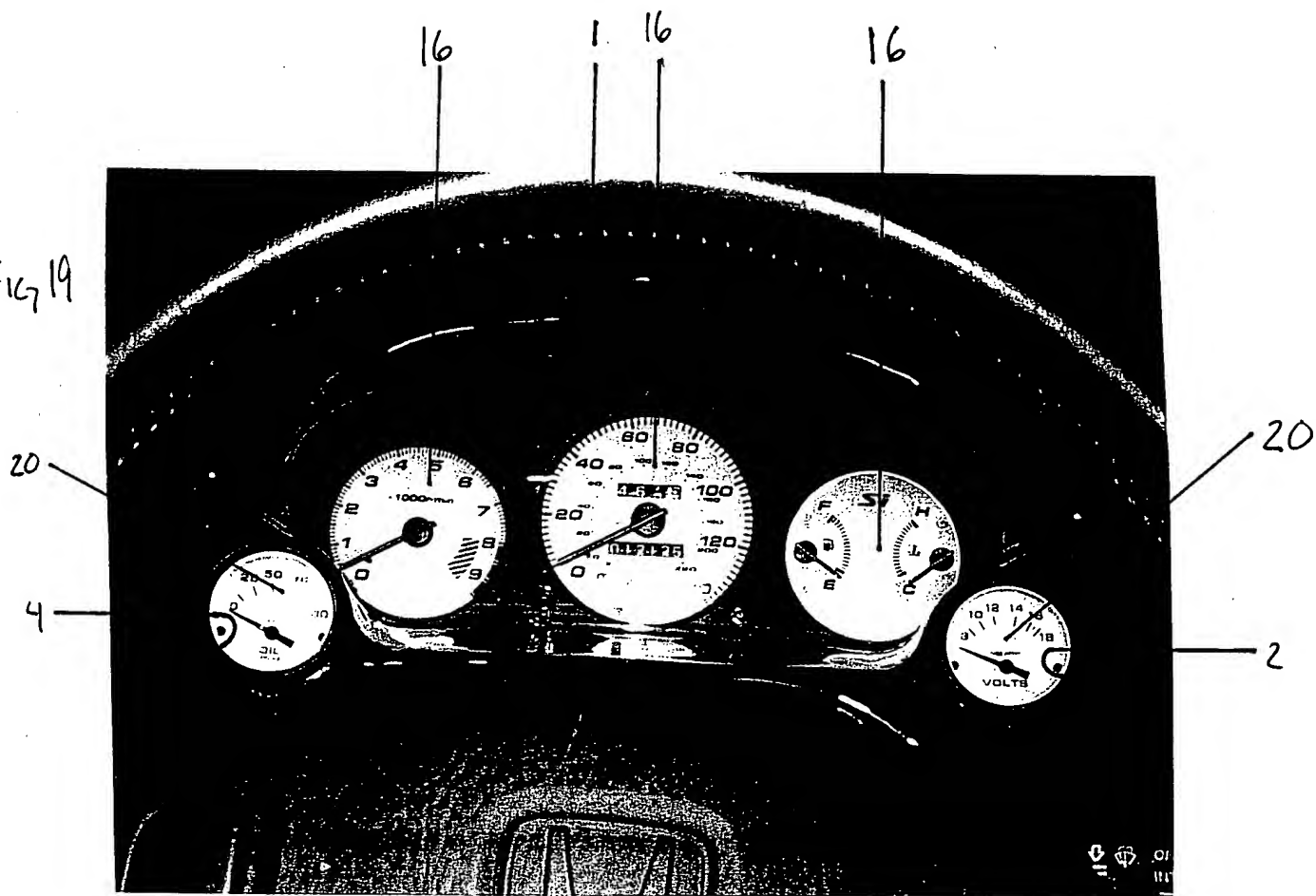


FIG 19





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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
60/207,584	05/26/2000		100	1712-0001P	11		

Maginot Addison & Moore
Bank One Center/Tower
111 Monument Circle Suite 3000
Indianapolis, IN 46204-5138

RECEIVED

NOV 02 2000

FILING RECEIPT



OC000000005501015

Date Mailed: 10/24/2000

Receipt is acknowledged of this provisional Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Customer Service Center. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the PTO processes the reply to the Notice, the PTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Douglas M. Jennings, Mooresville, IN ;

Continuing Data as Claimed by Applicant

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted 08/09/2000

** SMALL ENTITY **

Title

Instrument bezel for an automobile

Preliminary Class

Data entry by : YON, LOWUAN

Team : OIPE

Date: 10/24/2000

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av 11/02/00

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Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

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- The words "new," "improved," "improvements in" or "relating to" are not included as first words in the title of an application because a patent application, by nature, is a new idea or improvement.
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Author Topic: **Awesome Gauge Bezel**

ArgentineSi posted March 10, 2000 08:12 AM    

Moderator

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Posts: 175

From: Buenos

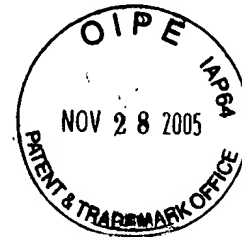
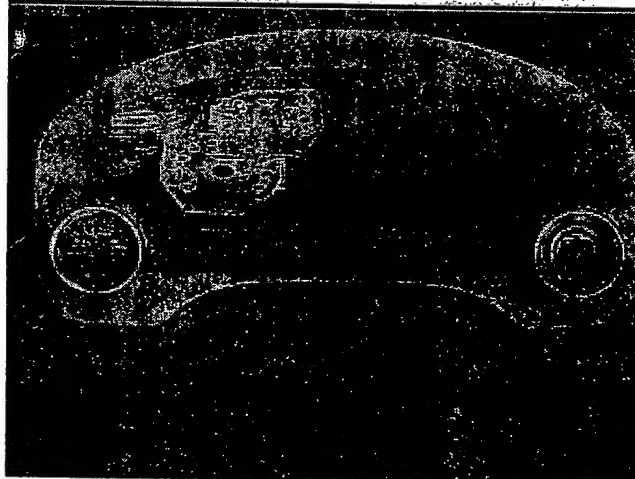
Aires, Argentina

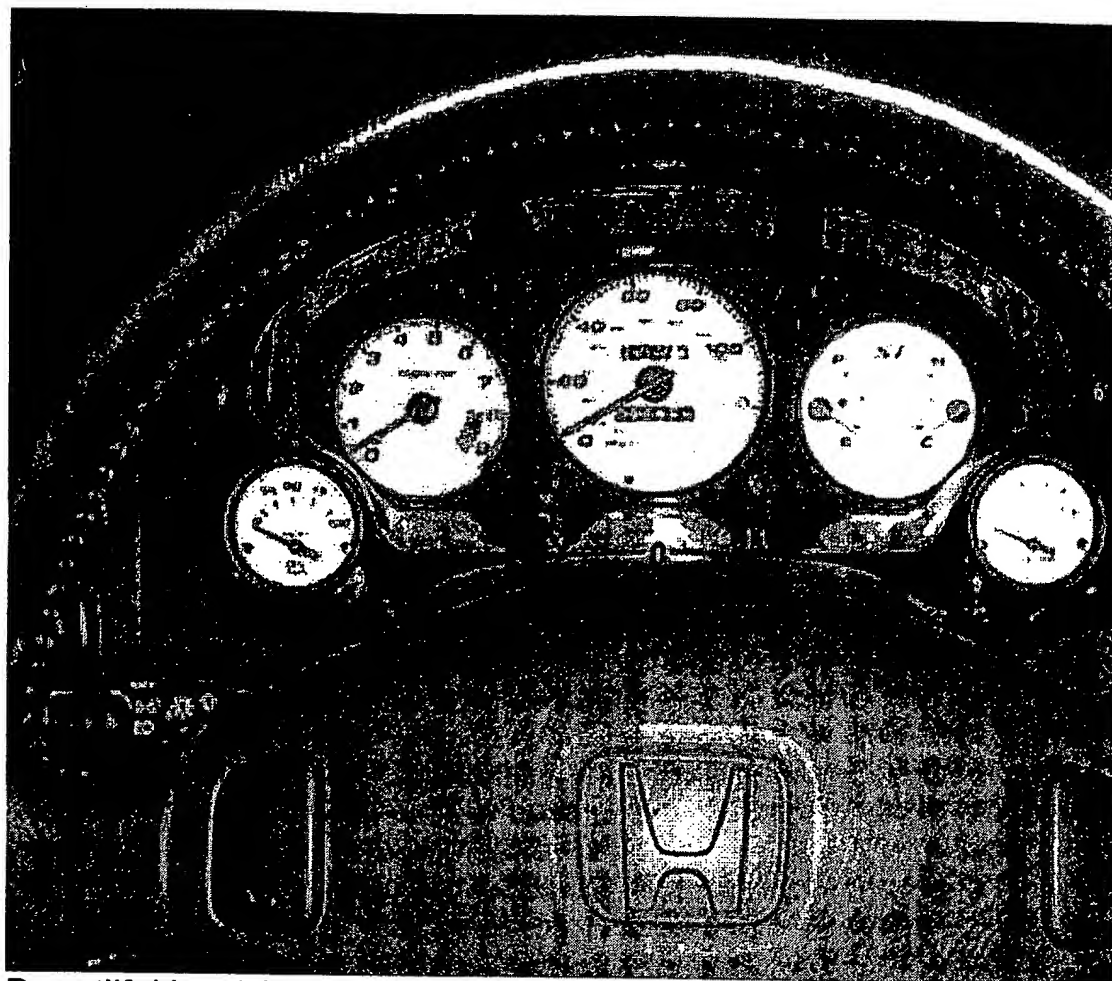
Registered: Nov

1999



Free image hosting by www.PhotoPoint.com





Beautiiful isnt it?

blacksi99

Member

Posts: 71

From: indianapolis,
IN

Registered: Nov
1999

posted March 10, 2000 11:07 AM

Thanx for the props I make that so If you would like to order call me
name is DOUG

8000 or bust

<http://hometown.aol.com/dj12106429/myhomepage/index.html>

ZIP22

Member

Posts: 262

From: Daly City,
Ca. USA

Registered: Nov
1999

posted March 12, 2000 02:49 AM

Hmmmm...some of those pictures look familiar. ☺

Here are some updated pictures:

<http://albums.photopoint.com/j/View?u=190061&a=1393052&p=170>

<http://albums.photopoint.com/j/View?u=190061&a=1393052&p=170>

<http://albums.photopoint.com/j/View?u=190061&a=1393052&p=170>





<http://albums.photopoint.com/j/View?u=190061&a=1393052&p=170>

<http://albums.photopoint.com/j/View?u=190061&a=1393052&p=170>

[This message has been edited by ZIP22 (edited March 12, 2000).]

ArgentineSi

Moderator

D posted March 13, 2000 01:56 PM    

Posts: 175

From: Buenos

Aires, Argentina





Registered: Nov

1999

Cmon people this groupbuy is gonna happen.
Check GroupBuys Forum to get in the deal.

ArgentineSi

Moderator

D posted March 15, 2000 05:03 PM    

Posts: 175

From: Buenos

Aires, Argentina

Registered: Nov

1999

Details of the bezel groupbuy ready on the GroupBuy Forum

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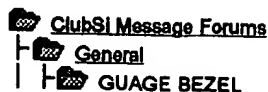
General

Go

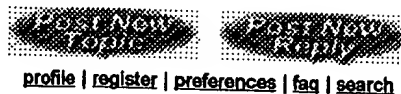
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Author

Topic: GUAGE BEZEL

blacksi99

New Member

posted December 06, 1999 12:29 PM

OK all of you who are interested in the guage bezel thanx for the props and its overwhelming. I wasn't ready for this so please be patient i will produce t as i can and a 2 year old will allow me to. They will sse for 160.00 including pressure guage and a volt meter with white faces in unpainted form. there w charege for painting i still need to talk to the painter. As far as other guages available but at a different price i'm still talking to auto meter to get pricing s. know about it later. as far as just the bezel itself i need to do some final num supplier but it will probably be about 100.00 unpainted. I will keep you post i find more out like i said i wasn't ready for this kinda response.

Thanx again
DOUG JENNINGS

8000 or bust.

<http://hometown.aol.com/dj12106429/myhomepage/index.html>



Xerxes

Member

posted December 06, 1999 05:24 PM

Do you have any pics of these bezels? I'm confused as to where exactly it g car?

sounds pretty cool otherwise. I bet fuel pressure & a/f ratio gauges would b good combo as well.

Hondaman

Member

posted December 06, 1999 06:15 PM

First of all let me say that when I seen the gauge bezel it was awesome. It i clean looking and has a factory appearance. It definately has show winning and is completely functional, neither of the two gauges get in the way of any

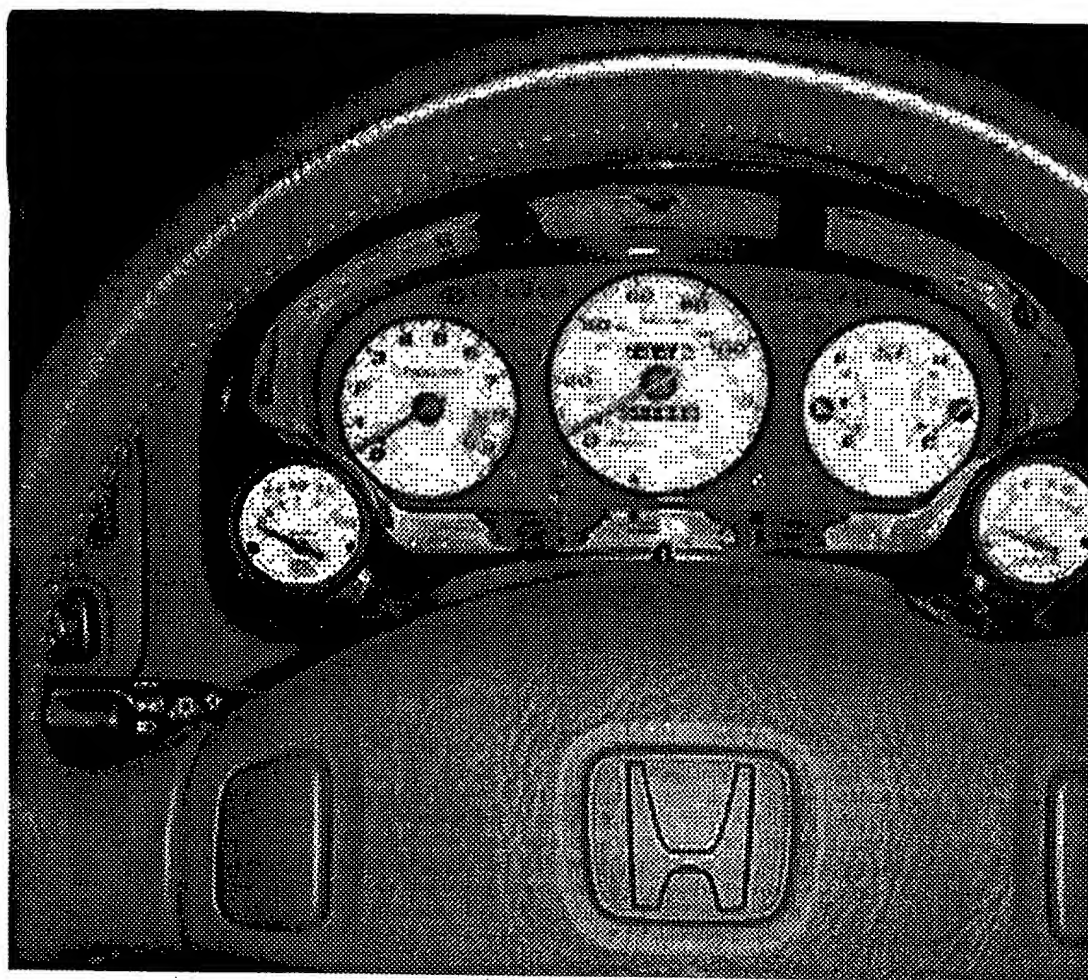
Xerxes - the gauge bezel sits right were your bezel sits in front of the gauge black peice that is right above the steering column and in front of the gauge

SiRacer

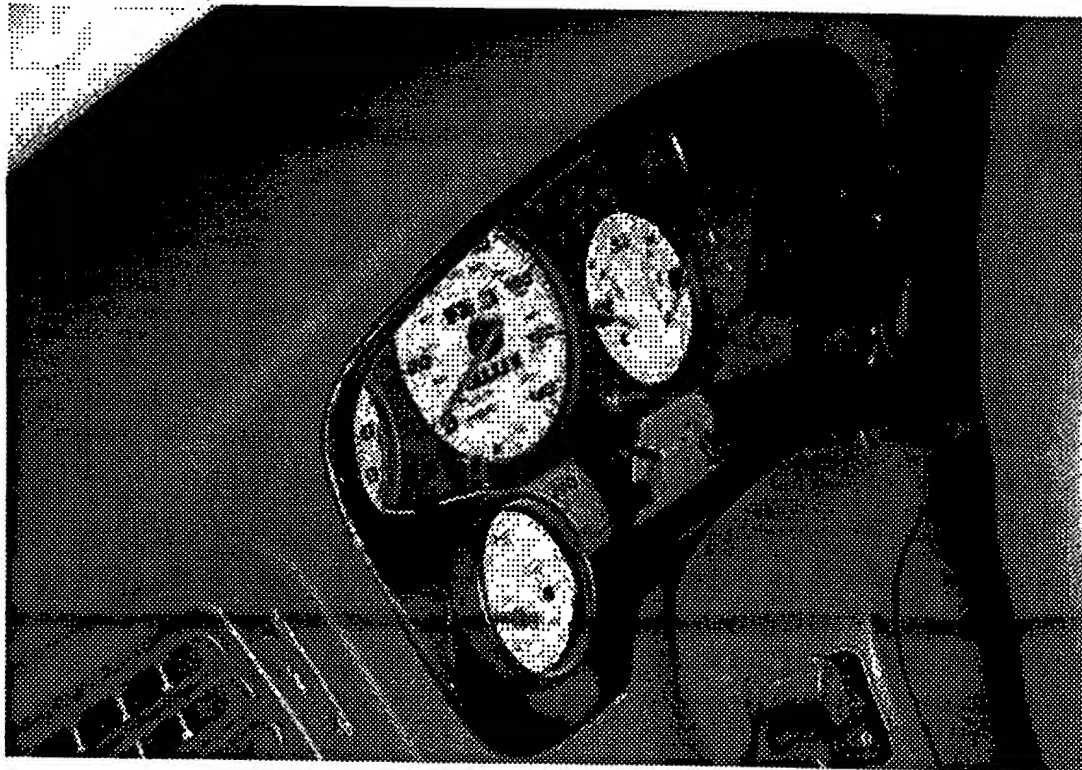
Administrator

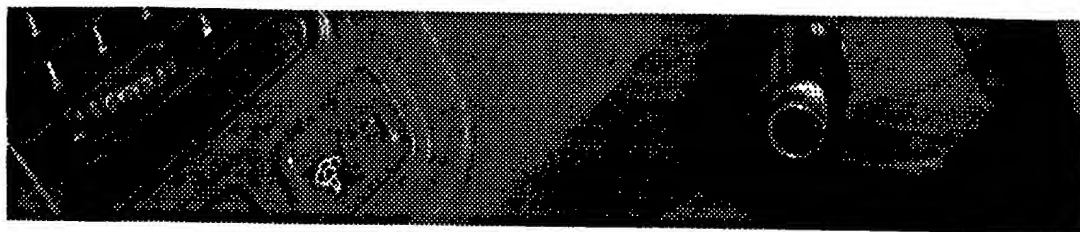
posted December 06, 1999 10:43 PM

Here is pics that were linked to another message about this:



And the other:





Pretty damn nice looking if you ask me! I'll take one with a boost and oil temp please! (They may actually come in handy sometime in the future) Oh, and i' EBP please!

By the way, do the Autometer gauges light up close to the color of the stock

Oh, and i'm shocked that noone had thought of this before?! You've got a to maker there!

~~Jason~~

Webmaster ClubSi

[This message has been edited by SiRacer (edited December 06, 1999).]

Si_Reams

Member

posted December 06, 1999 11:19 PM

blacks99, YOU ARE THE MAN!!!

Great Job!

I'll take one unpainted, please!!

Doin' it Honda style...

Drive Fast & *SAFE*!!

'99 EBP Si

[Si_Reams]

YKKS

Member

posted December 07, 1999 12:10 AM

Everyone,

I am the guy who took the pics of this great creation. I was in the process of web page with tons of pics and info about the bezel until my monitor died, le helpless and without clubsi for over a day. When I get mine back up, ill get t and post the link.

YKKS

oldsiman

Administrator

posted December 07, 1999 09:16 AM

WOW!!!

When did THIS happen?

Put me down for an empty unpainted unit. I will pay in cash, credit card, che pazoosas, whoever is most convenient!

OSM

SiRacer

Administrator

posted December 07, 1999 10:30 AM

I just love all these great things that ClubSi gets its dirty hands on FIRST! (gauges... Custom gauge pods... GREDDY turbos? I wish!) I will add that to t Hot' page tonight when I come home from work...

~~Jason~~

Webmaster ClubSi

JWSi

New Member

posted December 07, 1999 11:39 AM

I definitely want one...unpainted and without the gauges. That is one SWEE work. Maybe we could just make this post the sign up list for who wants one check or money order to wherever I need to...just let me know.

Thanks,
John

Gaijin

New Member

posted December 07, 1999 07:48 PM

this is why i bought a Honda Si, the great comunity. you better copywright t big time shop gets their hands on the idea. MAD PROPS! Sign me up for an one!

gabe

rockstar

Member

posted December 07, 1999 08:05 PM

do the added guages light, if so, what color?

how hard is the bezel install?





how hard is hooking up the guages?

sorry for the stupid questions. DAMNIT JIM., i am an artist, not a mechanic.

thx
-rock

BLUBYU

Member

 posted December 07, 1999 08:22 PM   

MOMMY MOMMY I WANNA ONE OF THOSE!!!!!!

I will take one unpainted... Cash, Credit, Check, Money order, First born, Tu name it i will pay it... As fr business y shop will buy them for resale if you wa somethin up... Let me know both for me n for the shop.. DKATT@WEBTV.N or New Again Auto @ (301) 608-2411

ElectronVTEC

Member

 posted December 07, 1999 09:26 PM   

I would like one too. I can pay by Discover, Check, or fudge brownies. Just l the time/place you need the cash. Peace.

I'm not here to sell Hondas, I'm not here to trash domestics, but i'll be damn shit about those that hate on me...EV.

ZIP22

Member

 posted December 07, 1999 10:04 PM   

You should post this group buy at Lundgren's site at www.redisoft.com/grou So more people can participate.





BTW, put me down for one without guages and unpainted! It looks like the buy for RX7's in Japan.

[This message has been edited by ZIP22 (edited December 07, 1999).]

[This message has been edited by ZIP22 (edited December 08, 1999).]

909

New Member

 posted December 08, 1999 01:33 AM   

I Love it. I will take one unpainted with no gauges. Sign me up right away.

JayRSi

Member

 posted December 08, 1999 03:27 PM   

Sign me up too! Those things are bad!!unpainted please

John Sever

New Member

 posted December 10, 1999 05:04 PM   

I'll take mine painted with A/F and boost guage please.....LOOKS AWES Keep up the GREAT work

Electroncivic





Member

 posted December 10, 1999 06:52 PM   

I want one!!

SiRacer

Administrator




 posted December 10, 1999 11:31 PM   

Damn that is f'n dope! I cant help but look at it again! I hope the carbon fibre out OK so you can sell those too! I'll take a carbon one if they do...

~~Jason~~
Webmaster
ClubSi.com

EBPSiPGH

New Member

 posted December 11, 1999 12:40 AM   

Sign me up!!

Josh

RITDR

New Member





 posted December 11, 1999 01:46 AM  

I HAVE to have one as soon as possible. Unpainted please. Looks great, pl posted!

RITDR

minh

Member

 posted December 11, 1999 02:18 PM   

Holy sweet oogaly moogaly! Need one badly... what commercially available oil/fuel pressure) that will fit in there look most like stock (and light up ambe Would need one not so shiney like color of stock cowl-plastic lining (you ca reflections of other gauges in paint). Well, put me on the list.

blueballs

Member

 posted December 11, 1999 03:04 PM   

I'll get a carbon fibre one, but i'll have to see pics first.

minh

Member

 posted December 11, 1999 05:16 PM   

I still can't get over how good that looks. Much better than the ricey (IMO) pi What color is the unpainted ones, if it's black plastic with a similar texture to plastic that lines the cowl, change mine to unpainted; if not: are they availab plastic with same texture as stock?

SiRacer

Administrator

 posted December 11, 1999 05:24 PM   

They are made of fiberglass... You can use a matte finish paint on them to more like the stock peice. I plan to paint mine the same color as my car. (E going to do this to the stock one but decided not to incase it looked like ass. can always repaint it black if I dont like it blue. I dont know how to make it lo

textured but smooth satin black would look close.

~~Jason~~
Webmaster
ClubSi.com

Darkan

Member

posted December 11, 1999 09:42 PM   

WOW...That really does look great. Its stuff like this that makes me LOVE t
I'll take one unpainted too.

Hey Doug, for every one you sell off this site, you should give a little kick-ba

Darkan
Addicted to VTEC

ElectronVTEC

Member

posted December 11, 1999 09:53 PM   

Hey Jason, i'm not an expert painter, but that is an old car stereo trick. Whe
painted completely [or on the final coat] just draw the paintgun farther away
piece. This allows some of the paint to basically "dry" on its way to the plast
give it a really nice texture. Makes a lot of fiberglass pieces look like OEM p
wanna have your painter try it, peace.

I'm not here to sell Hondas, I'm not here to trash domestics, but i'll be damn
shit about those that hate on me...EV.

quickb16a

New Member

posted December 11, 1999 11:09 PM   

sign me up too!! I'll take one as soon you can start makin them. make mine
gauges. Outstanding job on on an outstanding idea.

kyle

tobey

Member

posted December 12, 1999 09:57 AM   

yeah ill take one too.... no gauges and unpainted. keep me informed. also e
the painting thing, the stock black, flat bumpy looking bezel can be reprodu
wise) just like ev was saying. you could almost do it with a spray can howev
EXACT. i work at a factory and i believe they powdercoat their sheetmetal w
good. the stuff they use is flat black and bumpy texture so that might be so
into for all you non-di-it-yourselfers. probably isnt to expensive either. peac

dzigner

posted December 12, 1999 06:36 PM   

New Member

Nice job on the design. When you get the chance, put me on the list as unp
extra guages. Thanks.

ZIP22

Member

 posted December 12, 1999 06:59 PM   

Hey I got an idea. Can someone with extra time airbrush those bezel photos
photoshop? This way we can see how it looks in various colors, especially i

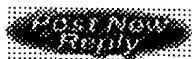
ZIP22

Member

 posted December 15, 1999 12:14 AM   

For those who haven't seen it.

All times are CST

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